

Guard; Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, Director, Army National Guard; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarkawi; Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah, 5765

September 14, 2004

I send greetings to all those celebrating Rosh Hashanah.

On this holy occasion, Jews throughout the world celebrate the beginning of a New Year. In synagogues and homes, Jewish families reflect on the year that has passed, and look forward to the year to come. Jewish tradition teaches that on Rosh Hashanah, God holds open the Book of Life to all who approach Him in prayer. As you gather to pray, may God grant your prayers for a peaceful New Year.

As you share in the traditional festivities of this special time of year, you renew your commitment to acts of compassion, and to the cause of freedom around the world. Together, all of us are helping to build a world filled with the blessings of family, health, and peace.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a blessed Rosh Hashanah and a sweet New Year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7813—National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, 2004

September 14, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

We have made dramatic progress in the battle against prostate cancer. However, prostate cancer is still the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer-related death among

American men. During National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, we again demonstrate our Nation's commitment to the prevention, research, and treatment of this disease.

Studies have shown that men with certain risk factors are more likely to develop prostate cancer. Age is the most significant factor—most men with prostate cancer are older than 65. Family history, a diet high in animal fats or meat, and certain other factors may also increase the likelihood of developing this disease. As we work to better understand the factors contributing to prostate cancer, I urge all men to talk to their doctors about the best course of action to reduce their own risk.

Although we cannot yet prevent prostate cancer, we know that early detection and treatment often make the difference between life and death. Screenings available include blood tests and physical examinations that can help detect the cancer at earlier, less dangerous stages. Researchers and scientists are also working to find more effective treatments that will give patients and their families greater hope. My Administration is committed to funding vital research and finding a cure for prostate cancer. Currently, the National Cancer Institute is sponsoring the largest prostate cancer prevention clinical trial ever conducted. The National Institutes of Health invested \$379 million in prostate cancer research in 2003, and plans to spend almost \$400 million this year and an estimated \$417 million in 2005. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs are playing essential roles in efforts to translate research into effective treatments.

To help save lives and raise awareness of prostate cancer, I urge all Americans to talk with family and friends about the importance of screening and early detection. By educating ourselves and others about this disease, we can improve our ability to prevent, detect, treat, and ultimately cure prostate cancer.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United

States, do hereby proclaim September 2004 as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators, volunteers, and all people of the United States to reaffirm our Nation's strong and continuing commitment to control and cure prostate cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 16, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 17.

Proclamation 7814—National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 2004

September 14, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* and the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we recognize our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for their extraordinary accomplishments in education and for extending the promise of our Nation's founding to all of our citizens. Historically Black Colleges and Universities were created to educate African Americans when they were wrongly denied the opportunity to attend school during the 19th century. Today, these great institutions continue to advance equal opportunity and excellence in education. In 2002, HBCUs enrolled 14 percent of all African Americans attending college. Their graduates are leaders in medicine, education, government, the military, business, the arts, the law, and many other fields. They include such heroes as Thurgood Marshall, who led the struggle for equal justice under law for African Americans and successfully

represented African-American schoolchildren in *Brown*.

Half a century after the Supreme Court's historic decision in *Brown*, America is still working to reach the high calling of its ideals. Education remains the path to equality and opportunity, and HBCUs are a vital part of our national commitment to improving education for all of our citizens. Funding for HBCUs is now at an all-time high. By providing students with a quality education, HBCUs are continuing to help America remain a place of opportunity and hope for every citizen.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 12 through September 18, 2004, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to show our respect and appreciation for these remarkable institutions and their graduates.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

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Proclamation 7815—National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2004

September 14, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, when the enemies of freedom were on the march and our country needed brave Americans to take up arms and stop their advance, the members of our